

Dear Representative Hashim,

I am a resident of Westminster West, now retired; but I practiced law in Vermont for over 50 years, including arguing many cases before the trial courts of Vermont and the Vermont Supreme Court. I write in regard to the appointment of Attorney Drescher to the Vermont Supreme Court, which appointment I oppose.

On the one hand, I am somewhat sympathetic to the argument Attorney Drescher has made regarding his representing the USA and ICE in the Ozturk and Mahdawi cases as a US Attorney. I once represented a client, as a Public Defender who murdered another person, after I had secured his release from prison, so I know what he is saying about every client being entitled to be represented by competent counsel in Court. However, on the other hand, the Minnesota USAs who resigned yesterday showed what you should ethically do in a situation where a President has politicized and weaponized the Department of Justice (likely in part, as revenge for his own prosecution) and where a President is acting lawlessly, in danger of destroying a country and violating the Constitution with his immigration and other policies, and blatantly using the DOJ to do his dirty work.

This is an odd pick for Governor Scott, who I respect- to pick the very prosecutor who was personally doing Trumps bidding in these clearly unjust, unconstitutional and high profile cases. A man of conscience and courage would, in my opinion, have refused to do the job and let the chips fall where they may. Unfortunately, I can't see Attorney Drescher as having the moral character and courage we want on our Vermont Supreme Court, with its courageous history of interpreting the Vermont Constitution to guarantee freedoms, even when the US Supreme Court and Federal Courts have restricted individual constitutional rights.

Hopefully the Legislature will see that in these trying times this is not the Justice we need on our 5 member Court to maintain Vermont as a constitutional leader in protecting democracy, due process and individual freedoms.

Please feel free to share this opinion of one of your constituents with other members of the Committee and/or the Legislature.

Respectfully, David Reid